

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 20 are pending in this case. Claims 6, 7, 11, 13, 16, and 19 have been objected to. Claims 15, 8, and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 9, 11 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,970,222 to Gusmano et al. Claims 1-8 and 15-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gusmano in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,600,569 Osada et al. Claims 10, 13, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gusmano and further in view of Osada et al. By this Amendment, applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 19 and added new claim 20. Reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested in view of the above claim amendments and the following remarks.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, claims 6, 7, 11, 13, 16, and 19 have been objected to informalities. Applicant thanks the examiner for the suggested corrections, which have been adopted in the above claim amendments. Accordingly, the above objection is believed to be overcome.

In paragraphs 2 - 4 of the Office Action, claims 15, 8, and 19 (which is believed to be inadvertently mistaken for claim 18) have been rejected under § 112, second paragraph. In response, applicant has amended claims 8 and 15 as above to address the informalities. In addition, claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 15. In view of the above claim amendments, the subject rejections are believed to be overcome.

In paragraphs 5 - 7 of the Office Action, claims 9, 11 and 12 have been rejected under § 102 over Gusmano. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 9, as amended, requires that *"after a data block in the first print data is printed, the control module checks to see if the second print data source is requesting a print before a next data block in the first print data is printed."* Because Gusmano does not disclose the above claim feature, independent claim 9 and its dependent claims 11 and 12 are not disclosed by Gusmano. Accordingly, the subject rejection is believed to be overcome.

In paragraphs 8 - 20 of the Office Action, claims 1-8 and 15-19 have been rejected under § 103 over Gusmano in view of Osada. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 2 requires *"repeating [printing a data block of said first print data when said first print data source is requesting a print of said first print data] if said second print data source is not producing said second print data."* Independent claim 8 requires *"repeating [printing a data block of said first print data when said first print data source is requesting a print of said first print data] 'if ... second and third print data sources are not producing ... second and third print data.'"*

The Office Action acknowledges that *"Gusmano, however, does not teach 'if said second print data stops repeating of step (a)'"* and cites Osada to remedy such deficiency of Gusmano. Applicant respectfully submits that, even if Osada can be combined with Gusmano as suggested in the Office Action, the combination still does not teach the present invention as required by independent claim 2 or 8.

Osada does not teach repeating printing a data block of a first print data on contingency of the lack of a printing request from another print data source. Nor does Osada disclose that a printing request from another print data source can interrupt an *ongoing* print job after a data block in the ongoing job is printed. In contrast, Osada discloses to change the processing order of data (*i.e.*, print jobs) added to a queue so as to print a job with a higher priority before a job with low

priority (see, col. 21, l. 67 to col. 22, l. 1; and col. 25, ll. 3-4). Therefore, independent claims 2 and 8 are not obvious over Gusmano and Osada.

Independent claim 1 requires "granting permission to a print request from a second print data source *when display data of [a] data block of the first print data source has been printed.*" Independent claim 15 requires the control module to receive "a data block of [a] second print data from the second interface if a ... print request is received therefrom *after printing has been performed on the data block of the first print data.*"

Similar to the above, Osada does not disclose at least that an *ongoing* print job can be interrupted after one of its data blocks is printed, as required in independent claims 1 and 5. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 15 are not obvious over Gusmano and Osada.

In view of the above, the subject rejection of independent claims 1, 2, 8, and 15 and their dependent claims is believed to be overcome.

In paragraphs 21 - 23 of the Office Action, claims 10, 13, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Gusmano and further in view of Osada et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Osaka was cited to remedy Gusmano's deficiencies in connection with claims 10, 13, and 14. The Office Action however is silent as to whether Osaka remedies the above discussed deficiency of Gusmano in connection with independent claim 9. Therefore, claims 10, 13, and 14 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 9 is allowable. Accordingly, the subject rejection is believed to be overcome.

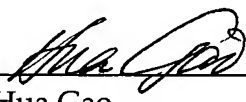
New claim 20 was added which is directed to a printing system comprising a controller as recited in claim 9. Accordingly, new claim 20 is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 9 is allowable.

Applicant has shown that all pending claims are patentable and hereby respectfully requests that the rejections of the pending claims be withdrawn. Each of the claims 1 to 19 in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

No fee is believed to be due for this Amendment. Should any fees be required, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

Respectfully submitted,

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